



Coordinated by *Comunidades Unidas* www.cutah.org (801) 955-9884 & funded by the Utah Department of Health, Center for Multicultural Health

Policy/Coverage/Access Committee Minutes

DATE: March 11, 2008

LOCATION: Downtown Salt Lake City Library, Level 2 Conference Room

TIME: 9:15AM – 10:30AM

Facilitators:

Luz Robles, *co-chair*

Jesse Soriano, *co-chair*

MHN Coordinator: Isabel Rojas

Sub Contractors: Utah Health Policy Project

Comunidades Unidas: Sabrina Morales

Center for Multicultural Health: Owen Quiñonez

General Members:

Anna Erickson

George White

John Nelson, MD

Nasrin Zandkarimi

Rebecca Jorgensen

Janet Landon

Melissa Zito

Karen Coats – Excused

Sylvia Rickard

Diane Lovell - Excused

Jerry Cochran

Kyum Chon

Sabrina Mangum

Sharleen Miner-Madsen

Bridget Shears-Lee - Excused

Randy Tanner - Excused

Brenda Rolls

Cristie Chestler

Attendance:

Isabel Rojas

Luz Robles

Jesse Soriano

Nano ____

Sylvia Rickard

Judi Hilman

Owen Quinonez

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jesse welcomed members.

2. Wrap up of the legislative session

We are very excited to announce that the mini-grants bill, HB131, passed with \$175,000; 2 for \$50,000 each and 4 for \$30,000 each. These grants would be awarded to community based organizations with priority giving to groups that serve high risk communities of color. The idea with the mini-grants bill is to build off of the trust that already exists among community based organizations and the communities they serve and enroll people in the health programs they qualify for as well as to teach community members how to making

cost effective use of their health benefits. The next step is to form an advisory committee with the program administered under Dr. Mark Babott. A special thank you goes to Rep. Jen Seelig who worked very hard to gain bi-partisan support for this bill. Rep. Seelig wants to be very involved in the implementation of this bill with completely public/private sector steering committee and MHN right in the middle.

- Members suggested including a language piece in the mini-grants bill. Perhaps encouraging the mini-grantees to test the availability of interpreters and culturally competent customer service at a community level.

HB428, Statewide Standards for Health Care Interpreting, sponsored by Senator Rebecca Chavez-Houck was recommended for study. The final bill was to create an advisory committee with in the Utah Department of Health to evaluate the states current access, quality, and usage of interpreter services by providers with in Medicaid and CHIP as well as to review the UDOH's responsibility based on Title 6. We hope to refine this bill a little more and push it through next year.

The broader multi-year health systems reform bill, *HB133*, has passed and includes the creation of a taskforce. It is recommended that the MHN be heavily involved to ensure that health disparities are a priority focus area.

SB81 will go into effect in 2009 with out study. One concern with the implementation of this bill is the issue of the state reporting what is done with state money and the possible effect this will have on the Mini-grants.

- Members suggested that in light of the strong anti immigrant presence this last session, the MHN Committees meet to discuss the idea of identifying our Caucasian supporters to be in front of fighting these issues and help make them as mainstream as possible.

Worker's Compensation Bill that has to do with a possible loss of workers comp funds for undocumented immigrants.

The Division of Workforce Services received \$80,000 to focus on the refugee community.

3. What is next for the Policy Committee?

Right now this committee needs to be as involved as possible in the health systems reform work groups and attending as many meetings as possible.

4. Framing the discussion for the Ethnic Community Forums: What do we want to know?

The ethnic groups were awarded mini-grants through the Center for Multicultural Health requiring them to host a community forum with the support of the MHN work group committees. The Office of Ethnic Affairs has used a similar model, but in terms of education, of having the ethnic communities meet and then brining them together for a larger forum.

- Members recommended also holding a larger follow up community forum with members from the legislature present to bring some of these issues to a community level.
- Other suggestions also included creating a community forum for our Caucasian supporters and maybe deciding on criteria for attendees.

5. Next Steps: Committee Assignments

Who	Task	By When
Judi & Luz	Thank you letter to those who helped with our bills	
Judi & Luz & Isabel (& Sabrina)	Mini-grant implementation recommendations from MHN	

Next Meeting

DATE: April 8, 2008

TIME: 9:15-10:30

LOCATION: Downtown Library, Level 2 Conference Room